

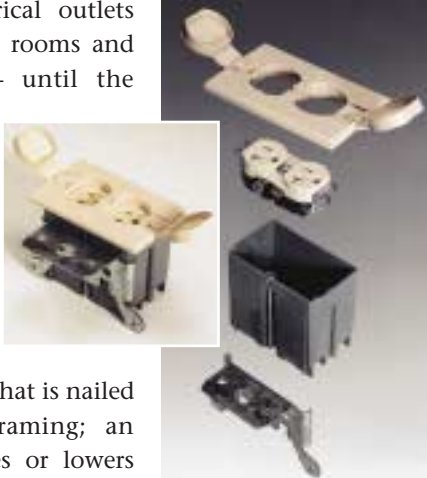
Products

by Leland Stone

Adjustable Floor Outlet

Floor-mounted electrical outlets are perfect for great rooms and other large spaces — until the owner changes the finish floor material halfway through the job. The *Adjust-A-Box* solves the problem of having to change the box standoff. The 21-cubic-inch box is attached to a steel clip that is nailed or screwed to the framing; an adjustment screw raises or lowers the box as much as 1⁷/₈-inches, accommodating a wide range of flooring choices. The Adjust-A-Box can also be mounted on the wall or ceiling, and the manufacturer claims it's approved for wet locations. Average retail cost is around \$25.

Contact: Veco Products, Inc., P.O. Box 692, Lyle, WA 98635; 509/365-5100.



Gutter Guard

Builders and remodelers get blamed for a lot of water damage that is really caused by the homeowner's failure to keep the gutters clean. You can nip this potential callback in the bud with the *Gutter Pump*, a UV-resistant plastic device designed to keep downspouts clear of roof debris. Just align the spout on the Gutter Pump with the downspout drop, and press into place. The pump siphons water from the gutter into the downspout (the action is identical to what happens when a toilet flushes), leaving leaves and other material behind. At \$5.50 for a bag of two, or \$2.50 each for a case of 115, the Gutter Pump is cheap insurance for contractors who do a lot of roofing and gutter jobs.

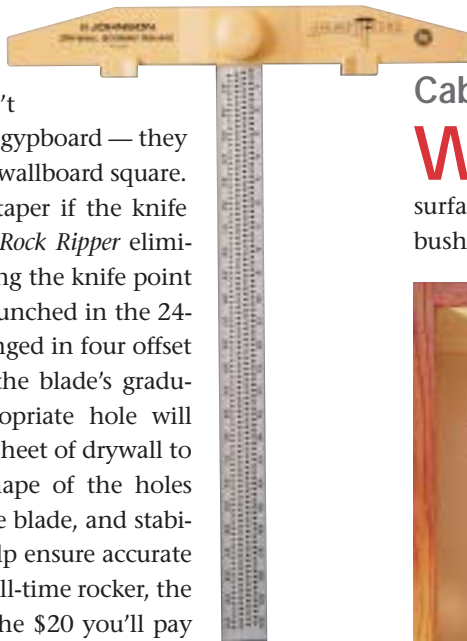
Contact: Storm Master, 10914 Parker Vista Place, Parker, CO 80138; 800/337-0757.



Gyp Ripper

Lots of drywallers don't bother to snap cut lines on gypboard — they just run a utility knife along a wallboard square. But the edge of the cut can taper if the knife wanders during the cut. The *Rock Ripper* eliminates this nuisance by capturing the knife point in one of hundreds of holes punched in the 24-inch blade. The holes are arranged in four offset columns that correspond to the blade's graduated scale; picking the appropriate hole will enable you to rip up to half a sheet of drywall to the nearest 1/16 inch. The shape of the holes automatically centers the knife blade, and stabilizer fins on the cross-head help ensure accurate cutting. Even if you're not a full-time rocker, the time you save will pay back the \$20 you'll pay for one of these tools after just a couple of jobs.

Contact: Johnson Level & Tool, 6333 West Donges Bay Road, Mequon, WI 53092; 414/242-1161; www.johnsonlevel.com.



Cabinet Clamp

When it comes to keeping cabinet frames aligned during installation, nothing beats the *Cabinet Claw*. Padded surfaces clamp adjacent stiles perfectly flush, and an attached bushing guides the drilling of a pilot hole. After the hole is drilled, the bushing swivels out of the way so the frames can be screwed together with the clamp still in place. The Cabinet Claw is sold in packs of two at a suggested retail price of about \$80.

Contact: Adjustable Clamp Co., 417 North Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622-6397; 312/666-0640.



Prefab Eaves

Open soffits are the norm in the West, but eaves in the rest of the nation often show a little more style. The trade-off for a boxed cornice, however, is the need for more lumber and adequate ventilation, two concerns that are neatly addressed with *E-Vent*. This polyurethane molding creates its own overhang, thus cutting down lumber consumption. The molded vents, which are covered with fiberglass mesh, provide over 6½ square inches of net airflow per linear foot of eave. Sold in various styles, the 12-foot-long E-Vents are spliced into longer runs using joining blocks, and both inside and outside corners are available. E-Vent can be sawn and nailed or screwed like wood, but use the manufacturer's recommended adhesive at every joint. The starting price is \$135 per section; corners are \$45 and up.

Contact: Style-Mark, Inc., 960 West Barre Rd., Archbold, Ohio 43502; 800/446-3040.



Keeping Permits Dry

Building permits are supposed to be placed where they're visible and accessible — a requirement that also makes them vulnerable in bad weather. *Permit Pouch* protects against waterlogged paperwork with a weatherproof, clear vinyl cover and a tough corrugated-plastic flap. Brass-plated grommets make it easy to hang the pouch on a nail; or you can lash it onto a rail with the included nylon ties. Although designed specifically for permits, you'll probably find other uses for the Pouch, like leaving notes to the client or instructions for your subs. Each Permit Pouch costs \$5, with a price break for larger orders.

Contact: RESupply, P.O. Box 980125, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0125; 800/747-2123.

